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Amendment

proximal and distal ends of the balloon and which may be radiopaque. This additional structure is not the balloon itself, but merely arranged on either end of the balloon. Claims 1, 3-5 and 7 are now believed to distinguish over the '144 Fischell reference.

103 Rejection

Claim 2 was rejected as being obvious over Fischell in view of Cioanta et al.

Claim 2 was deleted and rewritten as new claim 7, in independent form. Claim 7 is not rendered obvious based on Fischell in view of Cioanta because Fischell does not teach making the balloon itself radiopaque, which claim 7 requires. The combination of Fischell and Cioanta does not meet claim 7, because the combination would result in applying radiopaque ink to the flexible tubes or bands, not to the balloon itself.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS

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By: 

Richard A. Arrett

Registration No.: 33153

6109 Blue Circle Drive, Suite 2000
Minnetonka, MN 55343-9185
Telephone: (952) 563-3000
Facsimile: (952) 563-3001

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Marked-Up Text

The following is the marked up text of the paragraph starting at line 3 on page 4:

FIG. 1 shows a balloon catheter shown generally at 10, having an outer shaft 12 and inner shaft 14, the inner and outer shafts forming an inflation lumen. The proximal end of a balloon 16 (made of balloon material) is connected to outer shaft [10] 12 and the distal end of balloon 16 is attached to the inner shaft 14. This balloon construction is well known in the art.

The following is the marked up version of claims 1, 2, and 5.

1. A stent delivery catheter comprising:
a catheter having a distal end, the catheter including a balloon near its distal end;
a stent mounted for delivery onto the balloon,
the balloon [including] being made of a material which includes at least one radiopaque portion.
2. Deleted.
5. The stent delivery catheter of claim 4 further wherein the stent has proximal and distal ends, and further wherein the one or more radiopaque band portions comprises two radiopaque band portions which are positioned so that they mark the proximal and distal ends of the stent.

Please add the following as new claim 7.

7. A stent delivery catheter comprising:
a catheter having a distal end, the catheter including a balloon near its distal end;
a stent mounted for delivery onto the balloon,
the balloon including at least one portion to which a radiopaque ink has been applied.